

Message Text

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71

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /184 W

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P R 190100Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0332

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN CB

SUBJ: KHMER QUESTION: ASIAN WORKING GROUP (AWG) MEETING OCT 18

REF: USUN 4028

1. THAI, PHILIPPINE, SINGAPORE, MALAYSIAN, INDONESIAN, JAPANESE, AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MISSION REPS MET OCT 18 AT JAPANESE MISSION TO DISCUSS KHMER QUESTION. UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP THAI PERM REP ANAND, AWG MADE CONSERVATIVE VOTE ESTIMATE ON PRO-SIHANOUK RES CONCLUDING IT WOULD PASS WITH 62 IN FAVOR, 47 (US) AGAINST, 25 ABSTENTIONS. SINCE POSITIONS OF SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES UNKNOWN, AWG DECIDED TAKE SOUNDINGS IN ORDER PRODUCE MORE RELIABLE VOTE ESTIMATE ON WHICH TO BASE FUTURE TACTICAL PLANS.

2. INDONESIA REP ASKED ABOUT TRYING TO HAVE RES TREATED AS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION OR TRYING DEFER UNTIL NEXT UNGA. NEW
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ZEALAND REP WAS SKEPTICAL IQ WOULD SUCCEED. JAPANESE AGREED

WITH NZ; JAPANESE MISSION ESTIMATE ON IQ WAS 47 (US) IN FAVOR, 60 AGAINST WITH 23 ABSTENTIONS. (THIS ESTIMATE BASED ON SAME ASSUMPTION OF GA PRES RELUCTANCE TO RULE.) IN VIEW OF THIS ESTIMATE, JAPANESE SUGGESTED IQ NOT VIABLE ALTERNATIVE. AWG, JAPANESE URGED, SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON FURTHER SOUNDINGS PRESENTED TOWARD LOBBYING ON SUBSTANCE.

3. AWG AGREED THAIS AND JAPANESE WOULD APPROACH GA PRES BENITES AND FIJI (ONLY FRIENDLY ASIAN GENERAL COMITE MEMBER) TO DISCUSS TIMING OF DEBATE. INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE WILL PROBE AFRICAN MEMBERS OF NON-ALIGNED ON WHAT PLANS THEY HAVE FOR DEBATE. AWG TENTATIVELY CONCLUDED THE LATER THE DEBATE THE BETTER. NEXT AWG MEETING WILL BE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK.

4. AWG DECIDED INVITE KHMER, FIJI, NEPAL AND LAOS MISSIONS PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE MEETINGS. BECAUSE GROUP IS ASIAN, AWG DECIDED BEST NOT INVITE US REP, BUT JAPANESE AND THAIS WERE AUTHORIZED KEEP US FULLY INFORMED.

5. COMMENT: USUN INDEPENDENT VOTE ESTIMATE ON IQ CONCLUDES THIS TACTIC WOULD BE DEFEATED 40 IN FAVOR, 64 AGAINST WITH 28 ABSTENTIONS. THIS BASED ON ASSUMPTION GA PRES WOULD NOT RULE PRO-SIHANOUK RES AN IMPORTANT QUESTION. NO INDICATOR POINTS TO GA PRES BENITES MAKING A RULING THAT HOSTILE RES IS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION UNDER ART 18 OF CHARTER AND THEREFORE REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS VOTE FOR ADOPTION. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC AND REMEMBERED VOTES IN UNGA HISTORY TOOK PLACE ON APPARENTLY SIMILAR ISSUE ONLY TWO YEARS AGO WHEN IT REJECTED, 55(US)-59-15, OUR PROPOSAL TO TREAT HOSTILE CHINESE REPRESENTATION RES AS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION. THIS FOLLOWED ONE OF THE MOST VIGOROUS LOBBYING CAMPAIGNS IN OUR QUARTER-CENTURY MEMBERSHIP IN UN. FROM A LEGAL VIEWPOINT, HOSTILE TEXT RAISES PARALLEL ISSUES; BENITES PENCHANT FOR LEGAL REASONING WOULD TEND TO RE-INFORCE THIS PRECEDENT SINCE HE MIGHT CONSIDER 1971 PRECEDENT "CONTROLLING." MOREOVER, BENITES REPRESENTED ECUADOR AT 1971 SESSION; HE CAST ECUADOR'S VOTE AGAINST AND SPOKE AGAINST OUR IMPORTANT QUESTION PROPOSAL. FINALLY, NOTHING IN BENITES' CONDUCT TO DATE SUGGESTS THAT HE WOULD WISH TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE WHATEVER IN MAKING AN IMPORTANT QUESTION RULING OR EVEN APPEARING TO SUGGEST SUCH A RULING FROM THE PODIUM;
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WITNESS HIS UNWILLINGNESS AS RECENTLY AS OCT 16 TO RULE THAT FM LONG BORET SHOULD BE ABLE TO ADDRESS GENERAL COMITE ON HOSTILE KHMER ITEM, WHICH ISSUE HAD TO BE RESOLVED BY VOTE.

6. AWG, JAPANESE AND USUN VOTE ESTIMATE DATAFAXED TO VUNOVIC IO/UNP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973USUNN04052
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SCALI
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731020/aaaaaoky.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 4028
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Oct-2001 by smithjr>; APPROVED <11-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER QUESTION: ASIAN WORKING GROUP (AWG) MEETING OCT 18
TAGS: PFOR, CB, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005